

Soviet official sentenced to death

MOSCOW (R) — Another Uzbek official has been sentenced to death for large-scale bribe-taking as part of a Soviet campaign to clean up the corruption-plagued central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, Trud reported Saturday. The trade union newspaper named the official only as Rakimov, a former collective farm chairman who prospered under Uzbek leader Sharaf Rashidov, who died in office in 1983 after ruling the republic for 24 years. A close associate of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, Rashidov was posthumously disgraced and stripped of his honours in a huge anti-corruption campaign started in 1984. Several Uzbek officials have since been executed after being found guilty of taking bribes worth millions of roubles. Trud said Rakimov had been involved in corruption for years. "In the course of the investigation it emerged that through these means, hundreds of thousands of roubles had amassed in his pockets," it said. In March, three former senior Uzbek officials committed suicide after being arrested for bribe-taking. They included a former Uzbek interior minister, Kudrat Ergashev, his deputy and a regional party chief.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Vassiliou agrees to meet Denktash

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President George Vassiliou agreed Saturday to meet Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for talks on reuniting the divided island. Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish republic of north Cyprus, said earlier this month he was ready to talk to Vassiliou. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had invited them to a meeting without preconditions. Vassiliou told reporters after a meeting of the National Council which groups all party leaders that, if Denktash agreed, they could meet in Geneva in early July.

Khomeini 'receives visitors'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, received visitors Saturday who prayed for him to live until judgement day, Tehran Radio reported. The report was the first official announcement of Khomeini's activities since U.S. and British television networks quoted reports as saying the 85-year-old leader had died or was dying. The radio said Revolutionary Guards, volunteer soldiers and fund-raisers visited Khomeini at Jamshir mosque in northern Tehran.

Shultz to visit Central America

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Central America from June 29 to July 1 due to President Reagan's growing concern over the lack of progress towards democracy in Nicaragua, a State Department statement said. It said Reagan had asked Shultz to meet the leaders of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica to discuss the situation in Nicaragua, where peace talks with contra rebels broke down recently.

Manigat fires armed forces chief

PORTE-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's president, Leslie Manigat, Friday dismissed armed forces chief General Henri Namphy and two other generals. The dismissals came after a confrontation over Namphy's attempt to transfer a colonel loyal to the president. Namphy, who headed an interim military government for two years after dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled in January 1986, has retired, according to a presidential communiqué issued late Friday. Namphy's dismissal appeared to reflect a victory in Manigat's growing conflict with the armed forces since taking office Feb. 7.

Manila assails Shultz's remarks

MANILA (AP) — Senators Saturday assailed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for recently saying the United States would "part company" with allies who prohibit nuclear-armed vessels in their waters. Shultz made the statement Thursday during testimony to the U.S. Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee. He also said the United States would pull out its facilities if Manila demands higher compensation. Sen. Jovito Salonga, president of the Philippine Senate, told a news conference the government rejects the notion of friendship "based on a condition of having nuclear weapons" in the Philippines. "What kind of relationship is this if they have to put dynamite and bombs in our (territory) for us to be friends?" he asked.

15 Syrian officials sacked

DAMASCUS (R) — Fifteen Syrian officials have been sacked from government departments or state institutions for mismanagement or dishonesty, the Syrian news agency (SANA) said Saturday. Diplomats said the dismissals were part of a government campaign against corruption and mismanagement in the public service.

Cyprus imposes new visa rules

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus has tightened controls on visitors from the Middle East and elsewhere after a car bombing which killed three people last month. People from the Middle East, Asia and Africa will in future need visas before travelling to the holiday island, officials said Saturday. They said this was one a series of measures to strengthen security after a botched attempt to bomb the Israeli embassy May 11. Three people died and 19 were injured when the car exploded in a central Nicosia street.

Three killed in Pakistan riots

KARACHI (R) — Three people were killed and 40 wounded in riots Saturday in the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad, where police with shoot-on-sight orders later imposed a curfew, residents said. The curfew was clamped at six p.m. (1300 GMT) after hundreds of people broke into the city mayor's office with arms, hatchets and wooden staves, the residents said. Police said a bomb was also lobbed at the home of the mayor, Aftab Ahmad Sheikh. Witnesses said the violence broke out between two ethnic groups who have clashed several times in the past in Pakistan's second biggest city.

U.S. drops minor Panama sanction

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government is dropping a sanction against Panama that required U.S. firms to withhold social security payments for their Panamanian staff from Panama's government, the state department said Friday. Spokesman Charles Redman described the measure as purely humanitarian and said the United States had not softened its stance against Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega and his handpicked president, Manuel Solis Palma.

Sierra Leone leader holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Sierra Leone's President Joseph Momoh held talks Saturday with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Diplomatic sources said Momoh, who arrived Friday at the start of Gulf tour, was seeking finance for road and hospital projects in his country.

Kabul says Stinger seized

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan government troops ceased a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile along with an assortment of other weapons from Mujahideen fighters in the western province of Herat, Radio Kabul reported Saturday. The radio credited Afghan border guards with the seizure, indicating it occurred near Afghanistan's border with Iran. Two guerrillas were arrested and one killed. Also Saturday, Afghan President Najibullah officially ushered in Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Sharq and his cabinet.

Moscow police detain 2 demonstrators

MOSCOW (R) — Police detained at least two people at a demonstration for democracy in Moscow Saturday, provoking a large crowd of onlookers to react with shouts of "fascists," eyewitnesses said. The two people, whose identity was not immediately known, were held as police tried to disperse about 50 members of various unofficial debating clubs, who carried banners calling for a democratic electoral system and "socialist pluralism," the eyewitnesses said.

Ozal escapes attempt on life

ANKARA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, whose reformist policies have changed the face of Turkey, was slightly wounded in an assassination attempt Saturday while addressing 5,000 supporters and foreign diplomats.

Screams of panic pierced the packed Ankara Hall and people dived for cover as a gunman fired at least two shots at Ozal. One bullet hit his right hand and another narrowly missed his head.

The youthful-looking man dressed in "T" shirt and jeans opened fire with a handgun at Ozal from a distance of 10 metres and then blazed away blindly before he was shot in the arm by a policeman and seized, officials said.

Ankara Governor Saffet Arkan Beduk told reporters that 20 people were hurt, 15 of them with gunshot wounds. Labour Minister Irem Aykut, the only woman in Ozal's cabinet, was among those slightly injured in the panic.

Ozal, 60, a conservative generally viewed as the only political leader who can rally the nation, ducked behind his podium in the Ataturk Stadium when the first shots were fired and was immediately surrounded by bodyguards with guns drawn.

Returning to the podium 15 minutes later, his right hand wrapped in blood-stained bandage, Ozal said: "My dear colleagues, I want to emphasize this — nobody can take away the life God has given. We have surren-



Turgut Ozal

Regent sends cable to Ozal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal congratulating him on escape from an assassination attack on his life.

The Regent wished Ozal continued health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also sent Ozal a similar cable.

The first bullet fired by the gunman hit the microphone in front of Ozal and the second one hit his right thumb.

Ozal took cover immediately behind the lectern when he heard the shots, Anatolia said. Delegates and others inside the convention hall also took cover, it said.

"I saw the gunman take careful aim at the premier and fire at him twice," Eyyub Asik, a deputy chairman of the party, told the agency.

Ozal came to power in a general election in 1983 after three years of military rule. He won a second five-year term with an overwhelming mandate in elections last November.

His free-market economic policies and outward-looking foreign policy, including an application made 14 months ago for full membership of the European Economic Community (EEC), have radically changed the image of a once-introverted Turkey.

(Continued on page 5)

Saudi leader renews stiff warning to Iran

RIYADH (AP) — Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz has issued a stern warning to Iran, saying in an interview published Saturday that Saudi Arabia would not permit "any voice to rise higher than that of prayers" at the upcoming pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina.

"I hope that no party, group or individual will try to test our determination to crush any riots or disturbances that may the security of the pilgrims," said the prince in an interview published in the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"There will be no hooligan demonstrations and no provocative slogans," said the prince, who is the commander of the country's paramilitary National Guard.

"We shall not permit, at all costs, that any voice rise higher than that of the prayers of a worshiper, the byname of the devout and adoration of the creator," he added.

Abdullah was interviewed in London at the conclusion of a state visit to Britain which he said dealt with terrorism as well as the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East and means of ending the Iran-Iraq war.

(Continued on page 5)



Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz

Abdullah said that British officials affirmed that they "do not deal with terrorists," with reference to the pro-Iranian groups holding three British hostages in Lebanon, and that the latest British contacts with Tehran were only designed to solve outstanding embassy problems (see page 5).

Iran was accused of terrorism and subversion by Riyadh last April 26 when the kingdom ruptured diplomatic ties with the neighbour. Riyadh cited among other issues the riots by Iranian pilgrims at last year's annual pilgrimage at the site of the issue.

On Friday the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet endorsed a recommendation by its executive body to reject a request from Nagorno-Karabakh for the region to be

transferred to Armenia.

An Azerbaijan foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters:

"The Supreme Soviet considered that the departure of Nagorno-Karabakh... contradicted the constitution of the Soviet Union as well as the traditional ties of friendship between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples."

The move followed a vote by the corresponding body in Armenia Wednesday to annex Nagorno-Karabakh. It has been ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923, although 75 per cent of its population are Armenian.

Both republics cite the Soviet constitution to back their positions. Azerbaijan quotes Article 78, which says borders may be redrawn only with the consent of all republics concerned.

But another clause, Article 70, expresses the right of all peoples to self-determination. This was used by the Armenian parliament to justify the right of Nagorno-Karabakh to decide for itself which republic it should belong.

The votes now leave the Kremlin with no option but to determine which interpretation should be applied. In March, Soviet officials cited Article 78, when Moscow ruled against any immediate change in the status of the region.

But his finance minister, Treasury Secretary James Baker, has acknowledged that Reagan faces intense opposition at the summit over its proposal to end farm subsidies worldwide by the year 2000.

This is Reagan's eighth and last economic summit, begun in 1975, to bring together the elected leaders, finance and foreign ministers of Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — the leading non-communist industrial powers —

to review pressing economic and diplomatic issues.

But the meetings seldom produce major decisions and officials on all sides said only token progress was expected in this year's review of such issues as relief of Third World debt and disputes over agricultural subsidies.

"It is not going to be a summit, I believe, in which some great new direction is charted or some crisis action taken because there is no crisis," Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Nigel Lawson, said Friday in London.

Italian Premier Ciriaco De Mita was the first to arrive Saturday, and was being followed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and European Economic Community (EEC) President Jacques Delors.

The Toronto summit, 14th in a series begun in 1975, brings together the elected leaders, finance and foreign ministers of Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — the leading non-communist industrial powers —

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Amman Rotary Club: 36 years of community service

Sa'ad G. Hattar reports on the activities of the Amman Rotary Club

AMMAN — Since its founding 36 years ago, the Amman Rotary Club (ARC) has contributed to setting up more than 20 community service projects at an average cost of JD 3,000 a year.

Established in the early fifties, the club, a local branch of the Rotary International, has been instrumental in boosting the country's cultural and educational standards as well as fostering social interaction through a series of well organised programmes.

The ARC stands out among local assemblies as one of the most active clubs, with far-reaching multi-purpose programmes for the benefit of both its members and the community at large.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Ra'ouf Abu Jaber, a veteran Rotarian, made a chronological review of the development of the ARC and the projects to which it contributed in the country.

This year's ARC project is targeted towards setting up an integral social centre in Al Quweisimeh housing complex, one of the urban development projects in the Kingdom.

The centre, to be set up in cooperation with the Urban Development Department (UDD), is estimated to cost between JD 40,000 and JD 42,000. Due to start in July of this year, construction of the centre is expected to last for 18 months.

The centre would consist of an auditorium, a sewing teaching centre, a kindergarten, a children's playground and a dental clinic for children.

For its part, the UDD has allotted a 12-dunum piece of land

towards the project while the ARC plans to contribute as much as JD 12,000 in members' donations. The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund has undertaken to meet the remaining JD 30,000 for the centre.

Rotarians in Jordan are currently engaged in a world-wide effort targeted towards wiping out all diseases which strike children, most notably polio.

The "Polio Plus" project, as it is labelled, is yet another indicator of Rotary International's contribution towards improving the living standards of children in the world.

The ARC has already met 50 per cent of its share of \$26,000 towards the \$120 million Polio Plus project. Jordan is one of dozens of beneficiaries throughout the world. The project will provide for supplying ambulances, technicians, and vaccinations and other health-related apparatus.

Having begun earlier this year, the Polio Plus project has already pumped \$26 million into Sudan, \$28 million into Turkey, and \$22 million into India.

Although South Yemen does not have a local Rotary Club, it is benefit from the Polio Plus project, and Jordan-based Rotarians were named as sponsors for that effort.

Over the years in Jordan, one project stands out as the most costly and well planned. It was a health service programme to combat the spread of tuberculosis in the Kingdom in 1972. Approximately \$100,000 in the form of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment were invested



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening ceremony of the Rotary Club's Rajef

social centre on July 15, 1979. Mr. Ra'uf Abu Jaber on the Crown Prince's right (File photo)

in the project, which was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

At that particular project, International Rotarian Clubs offered contributions in cooperation with Jordan-based Rotarians which helped realise optimum benefits.

In the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the club presented the Jordan Red Crescent (JRC) with a fully-equipped vehicle for field medical operations. The club had ordered the vehicle before the war erupted and the delivery was made just in time to cater for war victims.

Those were just few of many community service projects designed to improve the living conditions of the country's less privileged citizens.

Many people, however, have the impression that accessibility to the Amman Rotary Club is universally-adhered to."

Abu Jaber went on to say that the club's charter states that "only the pioneer in each trade" is eligible for membership. Abu Jaber also defends the club against charges of elitism. "The Rotary's objective lies in encouraging and fostering the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service. It is a worldwide network of cooperation and understanding for a better world," the club's charter which is universally-adhered to."

Established in 1956, the 80-member Amman Rotary Club became a de jure member of a worldwide network of 20,000 clubs with more than 900,000 Rotarians in 157 countries and geographical regions.

The foremost objective of the Rotary Club remains to broaden the scope of inter-communal cooperation with a view to offer optimum services to society. And so the Rotarians join hands with the "inner wheelers" for a better society and a prospering country.

Such an assembly is commonplace. Because Rotary International charters restrict membership to no more than 80 members two other clubs came to being in Amman to meet the growing demand for such institutions.

The Philadelphia Club and the Amman Petra Club grouping 65 and 52 members respectively, have been registered since 1956. The Inner Wheel, an umbrella assembly for the wives of Rotarians, is also active in various domains of community service. It groups 45 women at the ARC and 42 at the Philadelphia Club.

According to Dr. Toukan,

the disease gets transmitted from child to child in the same family.

"Here young children (between 1 and 5-years-old) from poor socio-economic classes are most prone to catch the virus from each other. This is forced upon them because of their socio-economic environment where poor hygienic conditions exist and they share the same washing materials, and where many of them sleep in one small room, for example,"

Toukan said.

He adds that the younger the child is when infected with HBV the more likely he or she will

be a carrier for life; whereas when an adult is infected, he or she will become ill but will not continue to carry the virus.

Another common way that the virus is passed is through vertical transmission. This occurs when an infected mother passes the virus on to her baby during the time of birth, Toukan explained.

"But we believe this is not as common here as it is in Southeast Asia," he added.

In the West, a low endemicity region of HBV carriers — less than 1 per cent, the forms of transmission differ because of cultural differences, the doctor said. There, HBV is normally transmitted through blood transfusions, homosexual acts, multiple heterosexual relations, prostitution, and infected needles used by drug addicts.

No. 1 suspect

Toukan said that a community study was conducted by the University of Jordan's hospital on the hepatitis B problem in the rural areas in the Kingdom with the aim of seeing the virus' behaviour within the family and to formulate vaccination strategies in the future. It was found that poverty was the main contributor to HBV, and that transmission within the family was the most common.

"As the country improves its standard of living and poverty decreases then we should find some improvement with this problem," Toukan commented.

If Hepatitis B is such a serious problem then why are people not informed? Toukan explains that the seriousness of the disease and its behaviour were not appreciated until 5 to 10 years ago. In Jordan it was only discovered 1 to 3 years ago.

We attempted to undertake campaigns to create awareness among the people. In response to the figures we found from the study, we formed the Friends of Liver Disease Patients Society in 1984. The society comprises interested physicians who want to spread awareness and conduct further studies," Toukan said.

He added that the society has undertaken campaigns with the Ministry of Education to work in schools outside Amman — in Karak, Ma'an, Tafith, and so on — last year. This year, he said, awareness campaigns are being made at UNRWA schools at refugee camps.

"Specialised physicians give lectures to the students and teachers in UNRWA schools, and to mothers and so on, and the awareness campaign on HBV will continue," Toukan asserted.

He explained, however, that it is very difficult to inform people and make them aware of the dangers of HBV because of cultur-

al reasons. "We can't tell children not to take care of their little brothers and sisters and not to kiss each other. We can't tell people not to drink coffee from others' cups for example. We have to be very careful in how to handle their education on the forms of HBV transmission. It needs thorough research into how to convince people to be cautious," Toukan said.

Vaccination

The doctor added that the society also supports research projects into HBV, and broadcasts their findings through the media, mainly newspapers. Furthermore, the society offers financial support to poor patients by paying their hospital bills. The group of physicians also sponsored a one-day seminar last year where specialists spoke about hepatitis B.

The best prevention against this virus is vaccination. There are already various types of anti-HBV vaccines available, but according to Toukan it is not yet feasible to conduct mass vaccinations in this field.

"Because of its expense and limited availability we are unable to conduct mass vaccination against HBV. In fact, the only two countries that do that are Saudi Arabia, because they can afford it, and South Korea, because they manufacture a vaccine that costs less than \$1," Toukan said. He adds that Western countries vaccinate only their high risk groups.

Each vaccination course in Jordan costs up to JD 7. "The cost must fall to less than \$100 in order to formulate a vaccination campaign for everyone," he stressed.

He indicated, however, that high risk groups in the Kingdom are being vaccinated. Vaccination is given to families of carriers, and health care workers who are highly exposed to infection. Doctors, nurses, dentists and other health workers deal with injured patients who could be HBV carriers, they are normally vaccinated, "but only erratically; it is not a unified campaign," Toukan stated.

The doctor warned that although poorer people are predominantly the ones who are most prone to getting HBV, those who are better off can also catch it because "we live in a high endemicity region, we are always prone to get it," Toukan said.

Until mass vaccination becomes feasible, people should be cautious by discouraging children from using others' toothbrushes and sharing washing materials. In general, hygiene should be maintained in the presence of others, Toukan said.

EMERGENCIES

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19

Air Jordan 774111/19

Ministry of Tourism 662311

Police complaints 664412

Telephone information 661176

Jordan and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Repair service 11

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE

Dr. Sulayman Khayyat 701880

Dr. Basim Al Odeiri 644623

Dr. Muntbir Al Qasimi 799959

Dr. Ihsan Abu Haydar 637123

Firdous pharmacy 661912

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055

Natwadi pharmacy 626762

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Syameem pharmacy 637660

TAXIS

Taxi taxi 640081

Venice taxi 644584

Astour taxi 644580

Tamer taxi 632381

Nabha taxi 669005

Holiday taxi 663100

Sayed taxi 664422

Middle East taxi 604615

IRRIED

Dr. Mohammad Al Shar' (—)

Al Shar'a' pharmacy 273825

ZARQAI

Dr. Rashed 'Atallah 954424

Khalid's pharmacy 983417

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Azm 644281/6

Jabal Amman Maternity 642412/1

Melha, J. Azm 642362

Palestine, Shmeissani 664171/4

University Hospital 645846/65

Al-Muader Hospital 662727/19

The Islamic, Abdali 661614/6

Al-Ahli, Abdali 661614/6

Al-Muhibah 662404/50

Al-Bashir, J. Arafat 751111/2

Army, Mar'a 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/050

Amal Hospital 674155

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates

Local self-buy rates in fils

Belgian franc (10) 99.2/ 100.2

Dutch guilder 164.9/ 165.7

French franc 61.4/ 62.2

Italian lira (10) 27.9/ 28.1

Japanese yen (100) 22.6/ 22.6

Swedish crown 22.5/ 20.1

Swiss franc 345.2/ 359.2

U.K. sterling pound 207.5/ 209.6

W. German mark 207.5/ 209.6

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

CHURCHES

FILMS

CULTURAL CENTRES

MUSEUMS

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

PRAYER TIMES

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

MARKET PRICES

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NUCLEAR FREE ZONES: Jordan will take part in an international meeting to discuss nuclear free zones which is due to open in Berlin Sunday. Rizk Al Batinneh, who is chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, will represent Jordan at the meeting and deliver a speech on the Middle East question and disarmament in the region. Batinneh will leave Amman Sunday for the three-day meeting.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Director General of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company Ghazi Abu Hamdan Saturday discussed with Lebanese Ambassador Pierre Ziyadeh exchange of agricultural products between Lebanon and Jordan.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION: University of Jordan Saturday held a graduation ceremony for its 23rd batch of students. University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali presented certificates to 45 students from the Faculty of Pharmacy, 62 students from the Faculty of Medicine, 111 students from the Faculty of Nursing, and 214 students from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

NEW SCHOOL FOR MAGHIR: The Ministry of Education has embarked on building a school in the town of Maghir in the Mafrag governorate. The school which will have 18 classrooms is expected to cost JD 217,000 and will be ready for occupancy during 1988.

ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING: Two training courses in accountancy for government departments opened at the Institute of Public Administration in Amman Saturday. Forty accountants employed by government ministries took part in the 10-day courses.

BANK LOAN: The Cities and Villages Development Bank has approved a JD 35,000 loan to the Um Al Dananir Village Council in the Balqa governorate. The loan will finance the construction of roads.

Celebrations to mark Great Arab Revolt

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth will Sunday start week-long celebrations in different governorates to mark the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt.

The celebrations entail youth and sports activities and seminars and lectures, tackling the Great Arab Revolt, its impact on the lives of the Arab people and its effect on the process of movements in the Arab World.

The final event will be held at

Hmoud meets Washington State University chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud met here Saturday with Washington State University President Samuel Smith to discuss cooperation in agriculture between the university and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said they discussed in particular an exchange of expertise and financing agricultural schemes in Jordan through the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID).

Smith later met with the Ministry Secretary General Salem Al Lawi to review progress in a national Jordanian project which is being financed by USAID.

The project supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture is designed to spread awareness among farmers on the employment of modern technology in farming.

Petra Festival ends

WADI MOUSA (Petra, J.T.) — An eight-day Petra Cultural Festival, organised by University of Jordan students, ended in the town of Wadi Mousa near the ancient Nabatean city Friday.

The festival included educational and entertaining activities which drew large numbers of Jordanians and foreign visitors.

National songs and dances, traditional songs and cultural lectures and seminars were also part of the event — the first of its kind

Olympic team gets anti-hepatitis vaccine

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Anybody there?

IT is not easy to draw lessons from the mini flurry of interest in Washington about the recent statement by Mr. Bassam Ahn Sherif, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, on prospects for a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace settlement based on Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side. We have always felt that more clarity from the Arab side on the possibility of a negotiated settlement would probably help achieve such a settlement. But we are also convinced that even if the Arabs were more clear about their peaceful intentions, the Israelis and the Americans would probably find new obstacles to place in the way of a solution which was based on the Palestinian right to national self-determination. We'd be delighted to be proven wrong.

Nevertheless, the PLO does well to communicate to western audiences its vision of a Middle East blessed with justice, peace and tranquility. The key dynamic in such a situation, we feel, is the nature and extent of American reciprocity. We don't expect Israelis to leap up and run for the negotiating table. But we do expect the American government to respond actively and constructively if, while it seeks to play the mediator's role, one of the protagonists proposes a process of justice and reconciliation which could lead to a stable peace. The peace-making effort will not succeed in one fell swoop. It will come in small, incremental steps, building upon one another until there is sufficient confidence for the protagonists to take the final leap forward. Mr. Abu Sherif — presumably representing the thoughts of his boss and the PLO majority — has taken just such a step. He has articulated with some clarity a position that the PLO and the Arab states have always preferred to convey in slightly more cryptic terms. We anxiously await a response from Washington, or from Israel. Will we hear voices from there which speak of Israelis, Palestinians and other Arabs living in peace and with equal rights? We're listening.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shamir's defiance

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has announced that his government will not implement a ruling by an international arbitration commission about the occupied Sinai enclave of Taba which belongs to Egypt. With this statement, Shamir has thus provided yet another evidence that Israel will not give up occupied Arab territory no matter how small its size is and regardless of the international laws and U.N. resolutions. This is a clear defiance of international law and a mockery of international norms and rules. It shows how determined Israel is to pursue its policies of aggression on the Arab countries and maintain its occupation of their lands by force, of course at the expense of peace in the Middle East. Shamir's statement came in advance of the commission's final ruling on the Taba issue, clearly displaying his government's total disregard to the commission's decisions and its separate peace treaty with Egypt. But of course Egypt will not remain passive vis-a-vis Israel's infringement of position and can never abandon its rights in Taba. Egypt will no doubt cling to its lawful right, and this could lead Egypt to abandon the Camp David agreements, something which observes believe is most feared by the United States, the architect of these agreements. The Taba question is a good lesson for the Arabs to learn in their dealings with Israel. Israel's intransigence over that issue clearly shows that it is not concerned with peace with the Arabs as long as that peace means a return of Arab land to its lawful owners. Israel is concerned with imposing capitulation on the Arab Nation while at the same time maintaining its hold over their territory.

Al Dustour: Israel committed to oppression

AS the uprising continues unabated in the occupied Arab territories, Israel is now opting to new measures that further demonstrate its criminal nature. Israel's defence minister has issued new orders to its troops and the Jewish settlers to open fire on Arab protesters who throw molotov cocktails onto Israeli vehicles and to demolish the homes of Arab people accused by the Israeli authorities of joining the resistance. By these measures, Rabin hopes to stifle the spirit of Arab resistance and quell the protests which his troops have proved to be unable to control any more. Rabin's new measures manifest Israel as a state totally committed to acts of terrorism and oppression against Arab civilians seeking freedom from foreign rule. The escalation of Israeli inhuman measures against the Arab population in this dangerous manner, shows that Israeli leaders have lost their minds and are no longer acting as humans respecting international law. This is a clear sign that they are sooner or later bound to lose their battle against the oppressed people who are intent on achieving freedom. We deeply respect the Arab people and their sacrifices and are confident that their just struggle will be crowned with success.



Sawt Al Shaab: Source of pride

THE new Iraqi successes in the battlefield constitute a source of pride for the whole Arab Nation; and the heroic struggle of the Iraqi armed forces paint a bright picture of future generations. The Iranians who have been rejecting all calls for peace and making a mockery of the international laws are being dealt one defeat after another at the eastern flank of the Arab World. The Iraqi armed forces' liberation of the Fao peninsula marked the beginning of a series of rapid victories for Iraq along the whole length of the battlefield with Iran. These victories are being reflected in Palestine where the uprising is being intensified and Arab youths are heroically confronting the Israeli aggressors and thwarting their designs and conspiracies. The Iraqi armed forces endeavour to liberate their land and to establish peace in the Gulf should prove to the Iranians that they cannot export their terrorism to the Arab countries, and that their Israeli-like tactics and aggression would not serve their ambition.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

At last, interest rates floated

AT long last, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has decided to float interest rates on all kinds of direct credit extended by banks and finance corporations and on certain categories of deposits. Although this major step was long over-due, what counts now is that it was adopted with immediate effect.

The new banking regulations issued by the Central Bank (see the newspapers of 8/6/1988) included among other things, the cancellation of the ceiling which was imposed on Certificates of Deposits (CD's), previously 7.375 per cent annum, and the abolishing of the ceilings set for commissions chargeable on loans and other credit.

As of now, the depositor and his banker can agree on any interest rate on CD's, provided the amount of the CD is not less than JD 1000 and its term is not less than three months. We expect interest rates on sizeable CD's to shoot up to 10 per cent.

Depositors can, and in fact should, shift all or part of their time deposits up to maturity into CD's, in order to earn the higher interest commanded by this form of deposits.

In doing so, the depositor is not required to make any sacrifice. As a matter of fact a CD is the best and most convenient form of deposits. A CD can be sold, negotiated, discounted, or pledged as a collateral for credit, as may suit the holder at any point in time before its redemption. CD's are also nominal and accordingly the owner is protected if the document was lost or stolen.

Since interest on CD's is now floating, we can assume that the cancellation of ceilings on interest payable on all other forms of deposits is a matter of time.

The second measure taken by the Central Bank means full fledged floating of interest rates on all forms of bank facilities. The overall interest or cost charged by banks to borrowers is comprised of two components: interest with a ceiling of 8 per cent p.a. and commission which used to have a ceiling of 1 to 1.5 per cent per annum which is

now unrestricted and can be negotiated between the bank and the borrower. Thus the overall interest became fully free as it can go up or down by changing the commission component as agreed from time to time between lenders and borrowers. The ceiling on the interest component is thus redundant and meaningless.

From now on, the overall interest rates on banks credit will vary in accordance with the risk and financial soundness of the borrower concerned. We expect the basic rate for the prime borrowers to be 10 per cent, going up to any level to reflect the risk rating assigned to each customer. The result is obviously that borrowed funds will become more costly. This may push many businessmen and traders to use their own capital rather than borrowed money.

This desired objective is also confirmed by the Central Bank orders to the banks not to grant any credit by virtue of pledging deposits in foreign currencies as collateral. Such credit must be liquidated within three months. The practice which is now prevented by the Central Bank used to allow smart businessmen to send their own capital abroad in foreign exchange and work locally with borrowed funds. They were able to earn free of tax interest on their foreign deposits while using the interest paid on their JD loans to shield their profits from income tax.

The measure taken by the Central Bank has far reaching consequences. Businessmen should understand it well and know how to deal with it. For the first time we offered an incentive to serve the public good, while most previous incentives were costly to the Treasury and did not achieve except the profiteering of certain groups.

We congratulated the Central Bank for finally taking the proper measure of floating interest rates. At last, we in this column, have something to celebrate.

'Basel was running with his mother, 50 metres from home, when an Israeli army sniper shot him in the head'

Editor's note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising enters its sixth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates will be published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the uprising, as confirmed by the International Com-

From a report by a delegation from the North American Coordinating Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations on the Question of Palestine)

At about 12:30 p.m. at Rafah camp in Gaza on Jan. 9, 1988, all was quiet until some children began to hurl stones at a group of Israeli occupation soldiers posted near the border with Egypt. The soldiers responded by launching some 30-40 cannisters of tear gas of various types. The residents began to flee, taking with them the small children in order to protect them from the gases. Many girls and young men were overcome. One baby of less than a year old who was gassed that day developed kidney trouble, was operated on and was hospitalised for some twenty days. Some of the young people tried to douse some of the cannisters with water, but most simply ran.

One young man, Basel Khalil al-Yazuri was running near his mother about fifty metres from their house, when an Israeli army sniper shot him in the head. The bullet entered the left temple and was lodged in the back of Basel's brain.

Basel was rushed from the UN-RWA clinic in Rafah to the Nasr Hospital in nearby Khan Yunis. Basel's father, his two brothers Muhammad and Adil and two younger brothers followed in a private car. At an Israeli military checkpoint between Rafah and Khan Yunis, the IDF soldiers allowed the ambulance to pass, but forced the family to stop in their car and ordered them out of the car. Then they threw the father into the car with the two small boys, ordering them to stay inside. The soldiers ordered Basel's brothers to clean the street where a previous roadblock had been placed. They refused and protested that their brother was in the ambulance ahead and was critically injured and they needed to accompany him to the hospital.

Then the commanding officer called for two soldiers who "have no sensitivity" to beat the two brothers into submission. All fifty or so soldiers at the checkpoint came forward.

The soldiers beat them for some time until they submitted. After cleaning the debris from the street, the soldiers again began to beat the boys and ordered them to put a burning tire inside a nearby house. They refused again and the soldiers forced open the door to the house and shot a tear gas bomb inside the house. (It was later learned that this was the bomb that killed Wijdan Faris and her unborn baby). The licence number of the Israeli military vehicle carrying the soldiers that beat the al-Yazuri boys and launched the tear gas that killed Wijdan Faris is 758763.

At this point, while the soldiers continued beating, the father got out of the car and began to shout to the Israeli soldiers: "You've already killed one of my sons, are you now going to kill the others, too?" The commander permitted

them to go on to Nasr hospital. Meanwhile, Basel's mother and sisters came in another car with a neighbour, his wife and Basel's three young sisters, driving on the back roads. Upon arrival at Nasr hospital, Israeli soldiers there refused to allow them to enter. They hurled stones at Basel's mother, hitting her in the leg. The women continued to protest and finally ran into the hospital. Soldiers kept the driver in the car, hitting him and the car with their truncheons.

On the third day Basel died, having received no medical attention at all. His father was at his bedside at the moment his breathing and heart stopped on Monday morning at 8:20 a.m. Basel's father obtained the death certificate from a doctor in the hospital, but the Security Service in the hospital refused to allow him to take Basel's body to Gaza (They claimed it was essential to settle the \$1,000 hospital bill first). In fact, however, families of those killed by Israelis are almost never permitted to reclaim their dead.

Basel's father refused the demand for payment. "You killed my son and now you want me to pay," he said. The police were called to mediate the situation between the father and the accounting office. Finally, the policeman said: "Don't worry, I'll know how to get it out of you later." And the body was first transferred to Abu Kabir, where an autopsy was to be performed.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the body was returned to the Rafah military headquarters. The Israeli-

appointed *mukhtar* of the camp instructed the family to go to headquarters with no more than three family members for the burial. Instead the whole family showed with some of the *Shuyukh* of the neighbourhood, in order to wash the body and give it a proper Muslim burial. The Israelis made the party wait two and one-half hours until 11:30 p.m. and then told them to go ahead to the cemetery to meet the body there. Soldiers surrounded the cemetery. Upon washing the body, the family saw that Basel was cut in a straight line from under his chin down to his crotch. A long cut had been made where his heart was and two cuts were made at his kidneys. The family believes that organs had been taken out to be used in transplants.

Ten days later, two days after the father was told that the killing was an accident that the army regretted and that an investigation would take place, the family home was attacked by soldiers. The picture of Basel and a sign identifying him as a martyr was torn down by the Israeli army. The soldiers beat Basel's mother and three of his sisters and tried to arrest his father. He pleaded with them and refused to be taken into custody because of his heart condition. Since the funeral, two of Basel's brothers have been arrested and imprisoned. A third brother stays away from home for fear of arrest.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY JUNE 19, 1988

OPEN FORUM

Promoting peace

NEW ORLEANS: More than 2,000 media educators, researchers and advisers from around the world met here early this month to debate how mass communication could further the cause of peace. The gathering, organised as the 36th Convention of the International Communication Association, underscores growing dissatisfaction with media performance with respect to peace in national and international arenas.

For most researchers, flawed media approaches to peace are largely due to problematic journalistic models that have so far failed to grasp the basic meaning of the concept of peace. Whether Communist or Western, press coverage of peace-related issues and events has been accused as being both superficial and ideologically biased.

With respect to peace, some members of the academic community believe that the concept should transcend its traditional equation with mere absence or hostilities within and among nations to embrace more subtle aspects of human relations. This trend has been boosted by the establishment of respectable research institutes around the world. According to those evolving perspectives, the concept of peace should include issues like nuclear disarmament, elimination of physical hostilities abolition of socio-economic inequalities and realisation of basic human values like freedom and justice.

Failure to give the concept of peace its due respect by Western journalism is mainly due to built-in flaws characterising the widely-held notion of objectivity. According to the criteria of objective journalism the notion of peace may not be too meaningful to be capitalised on regularly. Peace is often conceived as a timely development which enters the consciousness of Western journalists only when it embodies a touch of drama and an outlook of timeliness. As a consequence, adoption of objectivity in newswork has precluded any commitment to the systematic coverage of peace as a "structural" phenomenon that manifests itself in fairly subtle ways.

Even when journalists attempt to report peace news, their sense of commitment to neutrality and detachment seems to militate against interpretation and analysis. Peace news is thus presented in a scattered manner. Such approach seems to ignore not only the basic elements of peace, but it also offers a distorted image of the reality in which peace is pretended to prevail. Furthermore, because of the organisational limitations on newswork, only perspectives of those who have access to communication channels are transmitted to the public. Views of less resourced groups and nations on peace are often ignored despite the fact that those groups may be striving for the realisation of truly righteous values.

In the Communist sphere of journalism, news media seem to be more systematically concerned with the concept of peace than their Western counterparts. Those acquainted with Soviet political rhetoric and media would strongly agree on the centrality of peace in Communist domestic and external communications. Unlike Western journalism, Soviet journalism reports news of peace in the widest sense possible with in-depth interpretation and analysis.

International cooperation agreements and ventures in which the Soviet Union is involved are reported as peace news and so is the opening of new economic projects inside the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, one should not be oblivious to the ideological slant characterising Soviet news media in their coverage of peace events and issues. Labour strikes in capitalist countries are reported by Soviet media as peace news because they seek to bring about reforms to a conflictual capitalist system. On the other hand, recent domestic troubles in the Soviet Union are portrayed as impermeable because they seek to undermine the socialist system of the Soviet state.

In light of the above-mentioned deficiencies associated with Western and Communist journalism with respect to peace, some researchers have proposed a restructuring of the basic concepts governing our views not only of peace, but of communication as well. A good starting point would be a return to the seminal views of John Dewey who was among the first to recognise the centrality of communication not only for the attainment of peace, but also for the survival of mankind as well. Some participants in the ICA convention have suggested an expansion of peace education programmes in schools and universities around the world. They have also recommended paying special attention to the education of journalism students, the communicators of tomorrow on the need for a neutral commitment to the concept of peace in media work.

But given the ideological and political imperatives impinging on newswork, there does not seem to be much for the media to accomplish. One of the basic notions that we in the scholarly-journalistic community have come to firmly hold is the inability of the mass media to do miracles in a world where political, economic and military resources have a final say in deciding substantial outcomes. If mass media are accredited for anything in our search for peace, it is for their role as a complementary factor, only one among many. Yet, despite this seemingly gloomy reality, the responsible statement embodied into UNESCO Charter in 1948 that "since wars begin in the mind of man, it is in the mind of man that the defence of peace must be constructed" continues to be widely received worldwide.

Dr. Muhammad L. Ayash

ping?

A matter of status?

Analysts say many new weapons are often largely symbols of national pride, armed forces' status and strategic ambition.

Syria has bought the latest Soviet fighter, the MiG-29, as part of President Hafez Al Assad's drive for military parity with Israel. Western diplomats estimate Damascus owes Moscow \$14 billion, mainly for arms purchases.

Jordan is reported to have chosen 200 Marcel Dassault Mirage 2000 combat aircraft against close competition from the Soviet plane and the European Tornado.

Kuwait is reported by Jane's Defence Weekly to have asked the Pentagon for 40 of America's most advanced strike aircraft, the McDonnell Douglas F-18, at a cost of \$1 billion.

Local and foreign analysts agree Egypt's re-equipping and restructuring of its armed forces is a useful case study of an Arab country refashioning its image at home and abroad.

Since Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, there has been a switch from an aggressive defence policy aimed at Israel and backed by the Soviet Union, they say.

Army manpower has been cut from about one million to 400,000. What was essentially an infantry-based force has been developed into a more mobile, armoured formation through extensive re-equipping with Washington's help. Serviceable Soviet armour has

been refurbished and obsolete equipment replaced with M-60 tanks and M-113 troop carriers.

Egypt plans to acquire 555 M-1As, of which the first 15 are expected to arrive in 1991. The remainder will be assembled locally at the rate of 120 a year.

The tank, the F-16 warplane and E2-C Hawkeye radar aircraft absorb the bulk of American military help worth \$1.2 billion a year.

The air force has 80 F-16s with 40 more on order while five Hawkeyes are in service. U.S. industry sources say.

A factory is now being built in Egypt to assemble the tanks, which carry advanced laminar armour, computerised fire-control, laser sight and low-light television. Production will cost Egypt an estimated

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli prisoners slash wrists

TEL AVIV (R) — Seventy-two Israeli prisoners slashed their wrists with razors and knives as a protest against conditions at Beersheba prison, a jail spokesman said Saturday. All of the prisoners were treated and released within the prison. The protest was the climax of three days of disturbances at bloc six of the prison, where criminal offenders refused to eat prison food or clean their cells, spokesman John Tester said. They demanded more time to walk about freely and more telephone calls. Tester said the prison at Beersheba in the Negev Desert had been very hot because of the weather, and that the bloc held "difficult" prisoners. Prisoners began slashing their wrists Friday night. "After 2 a.m., the last one cut himself, the prison manager talked to them and told them what happened in the bloc was their own doing because of their misbehaviour," Tester said. "Once they start toeing the line, they'll get their privileges back," Tester said the manager told prisoners. He said prisoners had resumed eating and cleaning their cells Saturday, but he did not know if the crisis was over.

Iran charters seven supertankers

LONDON (R) — The National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) chartered seven supertankers in the past week, London shipbrokers said Friday. They said that was an unusually large amount for any one firm to charter in such a short time. One tanker with a cargo capacity of 356,324 tonnes and a second with a capacity of 262,267 were chartered for six to 12 month periods to be used for storing oil, the brokers said. Iran is paying \$18,000 a day for each of them. In addition, Iran chartered the Liberian-flag tanker Eastern Courage, with a capacity of 267,807 tonnes, and the Greek-registered Panopis L., which can carry 268,951 tonnes, to be used on its Gulf shuttle service, at a rate of \$33,000 daily, the brokers said. Brokers said the Iranians chartered three supertankers for single trips from the Gulf.

U.S. unhappy over Senegalese move

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States protested to Senegal Friday for dropping charges against two Libyans arrested for allegedly carrying explosives. "The government of Senegal released, without trial, two known Libyan terrorists caught red-handed in Dakar airport last February attempting to smuggle arms and explosives into Senegal," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said. The two men were sent back to Libya Thursday, according to official spokesman in Dakar. "We're extremely disappointed by Senegal's action," Redman said. "It raises questions about that country's commitment to the struggle against international terrorism." He said U.S. "dissatisfaction" was communicated through diplomatic channels.

U.S. commander visits Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — General George B. Crist, head of the U.S. central command, has held talks with Omani Defence Minister Mutasim Al Busaidi and senior military staff, diplomatic sources reported Saturday. Crist flew in Friday from his Florida headquarters, Centcom, which oversees the U.S. naval task force in and near the Gulf. The sources said the purpose of Crist's three-day visit is to discuss issues of "mutual concern."

Dutch ship to ferry U.S. frigate

BAHRAIN (R) — A Dutch cargo ship has arrived in the Gulf to take the mine-damaged U.S. frigate Samuel B. Roberts to the United States for repairs. U.S. navy officials in the region said Saturday. Shipping sources said the semi-submersible 25,743-tonne Mighty Servant II had moored alongside the frigate in Dubai. The 3,585-tonne frigate hit a mine northeast of Qatar April 15. Ten seamen were injured and Washington blamed Iran for planting the mine. The U.S. navy raided two Iranian oil platforms in retaliation, sparking the biggest naval battle between U.S. and Iranian forces. Six Iranian vessels, including two frigates, were sunk or disabled April 18. Shipping sources said it would take at least three days for Samuel B. Roberts to be loaded aboard the Dutch ship.

British MPs plan Iran visit

LONDON (Agencies) — Four British members of parliament (MPs) will fly to Iran Sunday to try to ease strained relations between the two countries, the Church of England said Friday.

A spokeswoman said the four, from several parties, would be part of a Church of England delegation which hoped to find common ground with Iran that might lead to the release of three British hostages held in Lebanon.

The hostages, kidnapped in Beirut and believed to be held by pro-Iranian militiamen, are church envoy Terry Waite, British journalist John McCarthy and Belfast teacher Brian Keenan.

The spokeswoman said the group would meet senior Iranian officials but gave no details. It did not plan to negotiate a deal for the hostages' release, she added.

"It is a fact-finding mission to find ways to improve relations with Iran which could lead to the freeing of Terry Waite and the other British hostages," she said.

Another Palestinian martyred in uprising

(Continued from page 1) Palestinians also blocked a road with rocks in Al Tur, a neighbourhood which was the scene of violent demonstrations in the first weeks of the uprising.

The wave of protests in Jerusalem declined in February after police doubled their deployment in the city from 750 to about 1,500.

Israel Television reported Friday that police detained three

U.N. chief pursues Gulf peace bid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday he was in weekly contact with Iranian and Iraqi officials and that he was not giving up on trying to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Perez de Cuellar briefed the Security Council on his latest efforts to mediate an end to fighting. He later told reporters he was not discouraged that the 11-month-old Security Council resolution on terminating the conflict had not been implemented.

Most diplomatic observers say the U.N. resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, troop withdrawal and prisoner exchange is virtually a dead letter.

"I told the Security Council that I am continuing my efforts," Perez de Cuellar told reporters outside the council chamber. "I am not the kind of man who gives

up. On the contrary, I intend to pursue my efforts and continue my contacts with the parties."

He said that although there were no new initiatives he continues to speak with Iranian and Iraqi officials once a week. "Resolution 598 is there and it is not for the secretary-general to give up," he said.

Perez de Cuellar said he was not exerting pressure but trying to influence the belligerents "to move to a flexible position which will allow rapid implementation of the resolution." He said the security council still wants the resolution to be implemented as quickly as possible.

Sources speaking on condition of anonymity, said Perez de Cuellar delivered to the council a dismal assessment of U.N. efforts towards ending the conflict and asked the council for new instructions on how to proceed.



Javier Perez de Cuellar

Sources familiar with Perez de Cuellar's report said he counseled that both Iran and Iraq had substantially different interpretations of the resolution and neither side wants to take the necessary steps to achieve peace.

Perez de Cuellar said it is up to the council, in cooperation with the secretariat, to examine new approaches, they said.

But sources say rumours that Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is near death and uncertainty about the future leadership in Tehran make the council reluctant to take strong steps at this time.

Many nations, like the Soviet Union and France, have been improving ties with Iran and diplomats said Washington also would like normal relations.

PUBLICLY, Perez de Cuellar sidestepped questions on whether the council wanted him to dispatch a team to investigate Iran's charges of continuing chemical warfare by Iraq. But the sources said there was strong sentiment on the council that a team should be sent.

IRAN said it was dissatisfied that a team sent to the region recently did not explicitly blame Iraq. The team concluded only that chemical weapons had been used.

Diplomats say the U.S. push for an arms embargo against Iran has failed because Iraqi missile attacks, ground offensives and chemical warfare make both sides equally culpable.

Therefore, Caden said Atta, who also uses the name Mahmoud Al Abd Ahmad, was protected under the "political offense exception" of United States law and placed him outside the jurisdiction of the extradition treaty between the United States and Israel.

Caden also said he had no governance over the case because Atta had been brought to the United States "in a constitutionally impermissible manner."

ASSISTANT U.S. attorney John Gleeson said the government would seek an immediate stay of the order pending a possible appeal or other recourse.

"While this court does not approve the actions taken by Ahmad, nor does it desire to express support for either side in this conflict, the fact remains that the political offence exception was formulated to protect the rights of those, whose philosophy may differ from ours, to fight for a way of life they believe in," Caden said in a 72-page written decision.

HIS ORDER "expresses no opinion as to the legitimacy of the Palestine objectives, the Israeli treatment of the Arabs or the legitimacy of the occupancy of the West Bank," he said.

Atta, who has been described by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a member of the PLO, has been charged with hurling a firebomb into a bus April 12, 1986 in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The bus driver was killed and eight passengers were injured. Two other people have been convicted in Israel of participating in the attack.

Atta has been held without bail at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in Manhattan since his arrest in May 1987 during a flight from Venezuela to Kennedy International airport.

Atta, who was born in Ramallah and became an American citizen in 1982, was held on an extradition warrant from Israel.

Lebanese Forces "foil Geagea murder plot"

BEIRUT (R) — The rightist Lebanese Forces militia foiled an attempt to kill its leader, Samir Geagea, and top officials with a carbomb, security sources said Saturday.

It was the second attempt in a month on the life of Geagea, a staunch opponent of Syria's role in Lebanon. He escaped unhurt May 12 when a booby-trapped car blew up as his convoy was passing through the northern village of Mastarat.

The sources said the militia suspected that one of its members, identified as Karim, was involved in the plot to kill Geagea, 38, and his top officials with a booby-trapped car during a

meeting at militia headquarters in Karantina June 7.

They said the plot was masterminded by followers of former Lebanese Forces chief Elie Hobeika, ousted by Geagea in 1986 for signing a Syrian-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's civil war.

A militia spokesman confirmed the plot but refused to give details until an investigation was completed.

One security source said: "The security people in the Lebanese Forces kept a close watch on Karim and three other men working with him and when they rigged the car with explosives they arrested them and foiled the plan."

He said militiamen stormed a house in the suburb of Ain Al Rumeigha as the four men were packing the car, a Peugeot, with 200 kilograms of explosives.

"The four men intended to drive the car and park it at the militia headquarters or its vicinity to detonate it at the time of the meeting," he said.

Only senior Lebanese Forces officials are allowed to park their cars at the heavily-guarded head-



Samir Geagea

quarters, which is ringed with barbed wire and concrete blocks.

A senior rightist politician told Reuters the attempt to kill Geagea was a new attempt to change the balance of power before presidential elections due September.

The Lebanese Forces has demanded the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces before the election.

Geagea's 8,000-strong militia, which controls east Beirut and a Christian enclave to the north, vehemently opposes the presence of more than 25,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

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Arab reportedly negotiates release of German hostage

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An Arab figure is negotiating with pro-Iranian extremists in Beirut to release West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, the Lebanon News Agency reported Saturday.

The privately-owned agency said the unidentified "Arab mediator has contacted the concerned circles in the past two days in an effort to obtain the release of ... Cordes."

The report quoted unnamed diplomatic sources as saying the contacts were held at "the consulate of a Western country in Beirut."

"The mediator has left and will return soon carrying answers to a number of conditions laid down by the kidnappers," the agency added, without elaboration.

The report, like earlier reports of mediation efforts, could not be verified. The Lebanon News Agency has not been notably active in covering the long-running hostage drama in Lebanon, where 18 foreigners are missing and believed held captive by extremist factions.

Cordes, then Beirut manager for West Germany's Hoechst AG chemical company, was kidnapped in West Beirut Jan. 17 last year.

A pro-Iranian group calling itself Holy Warriors for Freedom claimed July 8 last year that it was holding him along with a West

German engineer, Alfred Schmidt. Schmidt was released Sept. 7.

Message to hostage

BEIRUT'S Al Safir Daily published messages to kidnapped British television journalist John McCarthy from his parents and friends hoping for his release.

Darling John, longing to have you home again. Thinking of you every second. Keep your spirit up. Love, mother and father," one of the messages said.

Another was from McCarthy's girlfriend, Jill Morell. It said: "Darling John, longing to see you smile again. Love, Jill."

Chris Pearson, a friend of McCarthy's wrote: "Stay cheerful, my friend. I just want you to know that I love and I miss you."

McCarthy, 31, a journalist with the London-based Worldwide Television News, was kidnapped April 17, 1986, as he drove to Beirut airport to catch a plane to London.

No group has claimed McCarthy's abduction and no demands have been made for his release.

The only indication that he is alive came from French hostages Jean-Louis Nurmann and Roger Auger who were released Nov. 27.

They said their captors claimed they also were holding McCarthy.

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Qatar's banks look to retail market

DOHA (R) — Qatar's banks, struggling to cope with a Gulf recession and a stagnating economy, have launched a drive into the emirate's retail market in what could lead to a head-on clash with foreign banks.

Bankers said bad debts and sluggish government spending had caused a sharp drop in new lending, prompting banks to expand their services to small clients to try to generate new revenue.

"As corporate lending is no more viable, some local banks are following the foreign banks in a move into retail banking," said one banker.

The nine local banks turned in mixed results last year. The biggest, Qatar National Bank (QNB), doubled its net profits while the second largest, Doha Bank, registered a steep decline.

Bankers said Qatar's five foreign banks, reluctant to expand lending because borrowers had for some time been unable to repay loans and earnings were diverted into provisions for bad debts, might see profits squeezed by increased competition in the lucrative retail market.

Teller machines

The push by local banks into the retail market has led to a scramble to install automated teller machines, offer credit cards and extend small-scale consumer

policies of local banks could increase pressure further.

Hostile environment

"The environment is becoming more hostile for foreign banks... it makes a lot of sense to move into a partnership with local (banking) group," said one foreign banker.

One strong reason is the tax burden imposed on foreign banks while local banks still enjoy a tax holiday. Citibank pulled out of Qatar last year and sold its operation to locally-based Al Ahli

Bank of Qatar, launched in 1984. Al Ahli's fast expanding operation saw net profits double last year to 10.52 million riyals (\$2.9 million) from 5.21 million riyals (\$1.4 million) in 1986.

With its late start-up, bankers said Al Ahli managed to avoid some of the problem loans which hit earnings of other banks.

Some banks had pinned hopes for an upturn on Qatar's plans to tap gas reserves in its North Field, where drilling in a \$1.3 billion first phase is due to begin in mid-August.

But a senior adviser to a Qatari

bank said most of the gas project would go to foreign contractors and any spin-off business would be small and short-lived.

In the meantime, lending has not yet started to pick up and economic activity remains at a low ebb. Qatar Monetary Agency figures show loans and advances rose by just 3.3 per cent to 1.59 billion riyals (\$437 million) at the end of 1987.

"Qatari banks, still awash in deposits, are unable to find secure projects in which to place their money," said another banker.

Housing starts in U.S. drop sharply in May

WASHINGTON (R) — The building of new houses in the United States dropped sharply in May as the pace of construction of new single-family homes sank to its lowest level in more than three years, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The sharp decline came as a surprise to economists, who speculated that it was the result of a combined impact of rising home prices, higher mortgage rates and a belief among builders that interest rates would continue rising.

Foreign banks have not yet published 1987 results. Bankers said earnings of some showed a modest recovery but 1988 had yielded few signs of a further pick-up and the more aggressive

cent below their May 1987 rate. The biggest drop came in multiple-unit buildings, where starts fell 18.9 per cent in May to an annual rate of 396,000.

Economists had expected a decline in multiple-unit starts, especially after April's astonishing 36.7 per cent rise. The market has been chronically weak because rental unit vacancy rates nationwide are at a 20-year high and many tax benefits of investing in such units have been eliminated, they said.

What puzzled economists was that starts on single-family home construction fell 9.2 per cent to an annual rate of 988,000 units, the lowest level since January 1985, following another significant drop in April of 7.2 per cent.

"It's puzzling as well as discouraging to see this kind of a figure," said economist Mark Obensky of the U.S. League of

Savings Institutions. "What that suggests is that this wasn't just a fluke — that this is a market that's in a decline," said Martin Regalia, chief economist at National Council of Savings Institutions.

"The single-family housing market, I think, is going to be on the ebb for the rest of the year," Regalia said.

Most economists had predicted there would be between 1.45 million and 1.55 million starts on housing construction this year, compared with last year's 1.62 million, but some of the more optimistic ones now say they may lower their forecasts.

PASSPORT LOST

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Jordan power generation increases

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total power generation last year amounted to 3,486 million kilowatt-hour, of which 3,122 million was used for domestic consumption and 364 million for export to Syria, according to an annual report released by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday.

The report indicated that total electric energy employed for domestic use increased by 14.7 per cent over the amount consumed in the previous year.

It also showed that the JEA generated 87.5 per cent of the total power produced in the country.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 18, 1988

Number	Volume	Contracts
212530	JD 178177	275
Regular market:		
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing, and Publishing	85900	JD 48584
Arab Bank Ltd.	180	JD 20586
Arab Aluminum Manufacturing	8550	JD 14491
Parallel market:		
Development bonds:	16350	JD 7350
Treasury bills & bonds:	934	JD 10229
Other debentures:		

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 11, '88 and ending Wednesday June 15, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars.)

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per share value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	650	979	1.500	1.510	1.000
Petra Bank	4000	7700	1.940	1.920	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2729	4783	1.750	1.770	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3061	4496	1.460	1.510	1.000
Jordan Griff Bank	3837	7191	1.200	1.230	1.000
Housing Bank	12000	25200	2.100	2.100	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	38	1102	30.000	29.000	5.000
Carro Amman Bank	384	5894	15.400	15.500	5.000
Bank of Jordan	520	59408	114.250	114.000	10.000
Arab Bank	7010	18044	2.540	2.580	1.000
Jordan National Bank	8200	7619	0.900	0.960	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	6125	10688	2.000	1.990	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	34712	18789	0.550	0.550	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	10000	18012	1.800	1.800	1.000
National Financial Investments	31307	22649	0.720	0.750	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	34024	25621	0.760	0.760	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	65	1024	15.950	15.750	2.000
Jordan Securities Corporation					
Real Estate Financing Corporation					
Al Madtreek Exchange					

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance					
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	25112	25112	1.050	1.000	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1500	1630	1.100	1.100	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	100	86	0.850	0.860	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al-Jazirah Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	10397	9683	0.950	0.950	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000

Services and industries

General Investments	76	97	1.270	1.270	1.000

</tbl

Committee dismisses Rothmans complaint

Jordan rally winners receive prizes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Winners and runners-up in the Rothmans Jordan International Rally were awarded their respective trophies and awards at a ceremony held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Saturday.

The ceremony was initially scheduled for Friday evening, but was postponed when a last minute unexpected turn of events took place.

Shortly after the end of the rally Friday, the Rothmans rally team lodged a complaint protesting the eligibility of Mohammad Bin Sulayem, the winner of the three-day international rally.

The complaint over a gearbox fitted to Bin Sulayem's Toyota Celica GT, said the gearbox was "homologated with ancillary equipment which is not fitted on the vehicle."

According to the text of the complaint, "an alternate should be mounted to the right hand rear of the gearbox in addition to the standard alternate at left hand front of the engine," rally spokesman Samir Dajani told the Jordan Times.

The committee dismissed the complaint, without scrutinizing Sulayem's car, with most of the discussion centred on the word "additional" in the text of the complaint, according to Dajani. The Rothmans team did not appeal within the one-hour period given to contest the ruling.

Hajri said that along with three other cars, Bin Sulayem's car was tested at the end of the rally and was found to have non standard parts.

"Jordanian officials felt something fishy, and the Rothmans technical team checked (Bin Sulayem's) car and found that the gear box had non-Toyota parts in it," Hajri told the Jordan Times Friday evening.

"This is not fair. We are competing with Toyota, not with any other manufacturer," Hajri said.

Bin Sulayem on the other hand, denied all accusations and challenged that his car is available for anyone to test at any time. "Our car is 100 per cent sound," Bin Sulayem told the Jordan Times. "The Rothmans team wanted to win this rally by hook or by crook because it is their rally and they had two cars participating," he said.

Bin Sulayem expressed disappointment because "the spirit of the Jordan rally was disturbed," after the incident.

Rothman's ace driver Saeed Hajri, who placed second in the international rally, checked out from his hotel room Saturday morning. His whereabouts then were not known, but sources said Hajri may have spent the day at the Dead Sea, for a photo session with his Audi Quattro A2. The Qatari driver also failed to show up at the prize-giving ceremony and Royal Automobile of Jordan General Manager Derek Ledger said Hajri had left the country to prepare for another rally.

"The Rothmans team submitted a legal protest within the legal

time and within their rights," rally steward Abdullah Al Khalil told the Jordan Times. "We (the three stewards) deliberated the matter for five hours and decided that the protest was unfounded," he said.

Christos Kyriakides, who is also on the stewards committee, said that after both the Toyota and Rothmans teams gave their points of view to the committee, the chief scrutineer was called in to "elaborate on the subject."

Dajani said that the gear box in Bin Sulayem's Toyota was found to be "one hundred per cent according to FISA regulations." He added that since that was the case, the provisional results published by the end of the rally were confirmed as final.

During Saturday's ceremony, which was attended by a few hundred auto sports fans, the first prize was given to United Arab Emirates' Bin Sulayem, the second to Hajri who drove an Audi Quattro A2, while, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, who drove an Opel Manta 400, was awarded the third prize.

Following those three, Sweden's Ola Stromberg, Jordan's Issa Halabi, Lebanon's Maurice Sahaoui, Jordan's Mohammad Shitan, Saudi Arabia's Mohammad Al Mally, were given awards for being among the first eight overall finishers respectively.

Stromberg was also awarded a prize for being first in the group A cars, while Bin Sulayem was given a prize for being first in group B cars. Kuwait's Sourejian was awarded a prize for being the first in the group S cars.

Saudi Arabia's Mally was awarded a prize for being first among the class 5 cars, Stromberg for class 8 cars, Bin Sulayem for class 12 cars, Sourejian for class 13 cars, and Zayed for class 14 cars.

Commemorative medallions were also given to the crew of each of the 10 cars that finished the rally.

The highest placed foreign entries from each country were also given awards. Those included Bin Sulayem (UAE), Hajri (Qatar), Stromberg for Sweden, Sehmaoui for Lebanon, Mally for Saudi Arabia, and Sourejian for Kuwait.

The Lisa Company presented an award for the best European finisher Ola Stromberg while Jean D'Eve watches through their agents in Amman Talal Malhas and Company were given for the best Jordanian driver, Prince Abdullah.

Prince Abdullah donated the cash prize (JD 150) he won for third place to Jordan's Aymad Zayed, for having best sports spirit in the rally.

Navratilova thrashes Zvereva

EASTBOURNE, England (R) — Martina Navratilova put Natalia Zvereva firmly in her place with an impetuous display of power tennis in the final of the Eastbourne Grasscourt Championship Saturday.

Beaten in straight sets by the 17-year-old Soviet at the French Open in Paris three weeks ago, Navratilova won 6-2, 6-2 to exact a modicum of revenge and emphasize her readiness to defend the Wimbledon title next week.

The 31-year-old Prague-born American has now won this event seven times and finished runner-up twice — following up all eight previous appearances in the Eastbourne final by winning Wimbledon a fortnight later.

Zvereva beat the world number two 6-3, 7-6 on clay in Paris but found her a totally different proposition on the grasscourt she considers her own back garden.

Navratilova, who will be bidding for a record ninth women's singles title when the 1802 championships begin Monday, said: "It was nice to get back at Natalia, and obviously it is an ideal boost to my confidence before Wimbledon."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Belgrade is to bid for 1996 Olympics

BELGRADE (R) — Belgrade is to bid for the 1996 Olympics, the official Tanjug news agency said Saturday. The Yugoslav capital failed in its attempt to land the 1992 games — they were awarded to Barcelona — but Tanjug said the Yugoslav Olympic Committee would try again, submitting an official application for the 1996 games. Athens is the sentimental favourite to stage the centenary games — the modern Olympic era began there in 1896 — but other cities also in contention include Melbourne, Toronto, Manchester and Atlanta. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is due to make a decision in September 1990.

Italian clubs sign four Brazilian stars

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Italian clubs signed four leading Brazilian soccer players Friday for a total of \$5.7 million, Brazilian officials said. The officials said Torino had paid \$4.2 million for Sao Paulo's Muller and Silas while Bologna had bought Guarani's Evair and Ricardo Roberto for \$1.5 million.

Baseball Standings

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league standings after Friday's games:

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	41	23	.641	—
Pittsburgh	36	29	.534	5/4
Chicago	33	31	.516	8
St. Louis	33	32	.508	8 1/2
Montreal	31	33	.484	10
Philadelphia	29	34	.460	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	34	29	.540	—
Houston	34	31	.523	1
San Francisco	32	33	.491	3
Cincinnati	31	34	.477	4
San Diego	29	37	.439	6 1/2
Atlanta	23	40	.365	11 1/2

American League

East Division

New York	39	24	.519	—
Detroit	39	25	.509	1 1/2
Cleveland	38	27	.505	2
Milwaukee	35	31	.539	5 1/2
Boston	30	32	.484	8 1/2
Toronto	32	35	.478	9
Baltimore	18	47	.277	22

West Division

Oakland	41	24	.631	—
Minnesota	35	28	.556	5
Kansas City	35	30	.545	5 1/2
Texas	31	34	.477	10
Chicago	28	36	.438	12 1/2
Califonia	26	40	.394	15 1/2
Seattle	26	41	.368	16

Soviets, Dutch reach European semifinals

FRANKFURT, West Germany (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and The Netherlands Saturday advanced to the semifinals of the European Soccer Championships.

The Soviet Union beat England 3-1 (2-1) in Frankfurt, while The Netherlands edged Ireland 1-0 (1-1) in Gelsenkirchen.

The Netherlands will play host West Germany in Hamburg Tuesday, while the Soviet Union will face Italy in the other semifinal in Stuttgart Wednesday.

On a hot afternoon in the Waldstadion, the impressive Soviet side took control after only two minutes through midfielder Sergei Aleinikov, conceded an unexpected equaliser by Tony Adams, but swept to an easy victory with further goals from Alexei Mikhailichenko and substitute Viktor Pasukko.

England, beaten by Ireland, The Netherlands and the Soviet Union, will fly home Sunday with the abuse of their own fans ringing in their ears following another abject performance.

Although they applied aerial pressure on Soviet goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev — playing with his right knee heavily strapped — in the second half, England were rarely able to penetrate the disciplined Russian defence.

Both teams were much-changed from their previous matches, England bringing in goalkeeper Chris Woods, defender Dave Watson and midfielder Steve McMahon for their first appearances of the tournament. The Soviet Union recalled Vla-

dimir Bezonov after injury and Gennady Litovchenko after a one-match suspension.

The Irish, who needed just a draw to deny the Dutch, held out bravely until the 82nd minute when Kieft Rose on the left in the penalty area and headed home.

The star-studded Dutch, requiring a win to qualify after losing 1-0 to the Soviet Union in their opening match, had until then looked likely to succumb to the rank outsiders after all their efforts had been thwarted.

Ireland, appearing in their first major championship finals, had gone 12 matches without defeat but the 13th proved beyond them as the Dutch claimed second place in group two and now face West Germany in Tuesday's first semifinal.

Both goals were created by the hardworking Gianluca Vialli, crossing from the left for Altobelli to score in the 67th minute and from the right to set up De Agostini two minutes from the deadlock.

Italy, with two wins and a draw, finished second on goal difference behind West Germany in the final group one standings.

They now play the winners of group two in the semifinals in Stuttgart next Wednesday.

shoot West Germany into the semifinals of the European Championship.

One goal in each half gave West Germany a 2-0 victory which made the hosts winners of group one and put Spain out of the competition.

Italy beats Denmark

Substitutes Alessandro Altobelli, scoring with his first touch of the ball, and Luigi de Agostini gave Italy a 2-0 win over Denmark Friday and a place in the semifinals of the championship.

Both goals were created by the hardworking Gianluca Vialli, crossing from the left for Altobelli to score in the 67th minute and from the right to set up De Agostini two minutes from the deadlock.

Denmark, already eliminated from the championship following defeats against West Germany and Spain, put up a brave fight in their final group one match.

But the unheralded Danes, who could have lost and still reached the last four, were a class above their tired and injury-hit opponents and it was only a matter of time before a goal came to break the deadlock.

Italy, with two wins and a draw, finished second on goal difference behind West Germany in the final group one stand-

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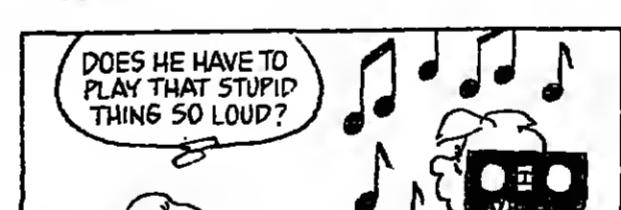
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Gandhi foe wins major by-elections

ALLAHABAD, India (R) — India's former defence minister placed himself to unite the country's fragmented opposition against his old boss, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, with a crushing by-election win Saturday.

Election officials said Vibwan Pratap Singh, who based his campaign on alleged corruption in Gandhi's government, had a lead of more than 90,000 votes over Gandhi nominee Sunil Shastri, son of former premier Lal Bahadur Shastri, with only 50,000 ballots left to count.

"This could be a watershed in

Indian politics," said one Western diplomat in New Delhi.

Gandhi, during a trip to the southwestern state of Karnataka, shrugged off the win, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Bin Singh, leading Shastri by 163,058 votes to 71,868 near the end of a marathon count that they did in Allahabad.

one of great significance. "This election proves that united action against Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party is possible," Singh said.

"We may not have a merger, but the opposition parties can certainly come together for a general election," he added.

Congress was defending all seven parliamentary seats at stake in Thursday's by-elections. It lost at least two other seats where a majority of opposition parties backed one candidate, as

163,058 votes to 71,868 near the end of a marathon count that started Friday, said his win was

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"We may not have a merger, but the opposition parties can certainly come together for a general election," he added.

Congress was defending all



West German policemen arrest soccer hooligans

Soccer violence rages in W. Germany

FRANKFURT (AP) — Rival West German rowdies brawled in Munich Friday, while fights between English and German fans erupted for a second night in Frankfurt.

English fans, on a self-proclaimed "invasion of Germany 1988," have descended on Frankfurt for Saturday's match against the Soviet Union in the two-week, West German-hosted European soccer championships.

Police said Friday the body of a 29-year-old Irish soccer fan was found floating in the Main river running through Frankfurt.

Police said he apparently drowned while intoxicated. The

body was discovered Thursday night.

Soccer-related violence broke out in Munich Friday, and police put the blame on rival gangs of West German thugs.

Minich police arrested 59 rowdies — most of them West Germans — for street brawling or for tearing up compartments on two trains bringing fans to the Bavarian capital for the Friday night West Germany-Spain soccer match.

One of those arrested was from England, while most of the others were West Germans, police said.

Police in Munich also said 61

others including West German "Skinheads" had been rounded up without being charged to prevent them from causing trouble near the city's train station.

Small groups of English, West German and Italian rowdies got into isolated scuffles near Frankfurt's main train station Friday night, police said. About 200 beer-drinking English fans had been milling about in the area since Friday afternoon.

"We will find ways to convince the Russians to pay. There are many ways to do so," said Hekmatyar, 40, who handed over the rotating three-month chairmanship of the alliance last Wednesday to moderate Afghan leader Syed Ahmad Gailani.

Asked how much damages the guerrillas wanted from Moscow, he said: "This will be decided after the complete withdrawal of Russian troops by an international commission."

Rebel leader says the 8½-year-old war has killed 1.3 million Afghans, forced five million to flee as refugees and destroyed 60 per cent of Afghanistan's houses and 70 per cent of its farm land.

The remainder of the population are han settlers from eastern China, who hold most leading positions in Xinjiang's ruling Communist Party bodies.

Defiance of birth control rules threatens China's population policy in many rural areas. United Nations officials said in May that if current trends continued, Peking's goal of keeping the population to 1.2 billion in the year 2000 would be exceeded by 87 million people.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyanide woman sentenced to 90 years

SEATTLE (AP) — A woman convicted in a death-by-product tampering trial was sentenced to 90 years in prison Friday for killing her husband and a stranger with capsules laced with cyanide. U.S. District Judge William Dwyer recommended that Stellie Nickell, 44, not be eligible for parole for a minimum of 30 years, saying, "the jury has found the defendant guilty of appalling crimes." Dwyer took note of the fact that the poisoned pain relief capsules had been left on store shelves and could easily have fallen into the hands of innocent victims. Nickell received 90-year terms each for two counts of producing tampering that resulted in the deaths of her husband, Bruce Nickell, and Susan Katherine Snow. She faced possible life terms on those two counts. Prosecutors alleged Nickell killed her husband because she was tired of him and wanted to collect \$176,000 in life insurance. They said Snow, who had no connection with the couple, was an innocent victim of a plot to make Nickell's death appear to be the work of a random killer.

Nunn not interested in vice presidency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Sam Nunn said Friday he was not interested in the Democratic Party's vice presidential nomination. Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, did not rule out accepting such an offer, saying in an interview it would be "very presumptuous" to respond to hypothetical questions about what he would do if Dukakis, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, offered him the spot. However, he said, "it is not my desire to have that job offered to me and then to turn it down. I don't think that's good for the process" or for Dukakis. Nunn was among members of Congress who met individually this week with Paul Brountas, Dukakis campaign chairman, to discuss the vice-presidency.

Zia removes key media officials

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan authorities have replaced four key officials in the state-run mass media, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency reported. No reason was given for the sackings, but they came the day after President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq vowed to cleanse the media of "vulgarity and obscenity." Those sacked were the secretary to the information and broadcasting ministry, along with the heads of Pakistan television, the National Press Trust and the press information department, APP said. They were all appointed by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, sacked by Zia May 29. Zia vowed to cleanse the media when he decreed that the Islamic legal code of Sharia would become Pakistan's supreme source of law.

Prague police disrupt peace seminar

VIENNA (AP) — At least 11 people were detained in Prague Friday when police prevented peace activists from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and a number of Western countries including the United States from holding a planned independent seminar, emigre sources said. The independent peace seminar, organised by the Czechoslovak human rights group Charter 77, was to open Friday with three workshops, the London-based emigre publisher Palach Press reported. However, a meeting of the organisers was disrupted by police at 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) and 11 people were detained including Petr Uhl and Jiri Pavlicek who were the main organisers of the seminar, Palach Press said.

Four killed in Philippine mutiny

MANILA (AP) — The captain and three crew members were killed in a mutiny aboard a merchant marine training ship in central Philippine Seas early this week, the coast guard reported Saturday. Third mate Alex Quillan, leader of the mutiny, escaped aboard a lifeboat after other crewmen regained control of the MV Filippines, a 19,000-ton training ship belonging to the government-run National Maritime Polytechnic College, the report said. A mutineer has taken control of the ship, reported late Friday to be in the vicinity of San Bernardino Strait, a coast guard spokesman in Manila said. He said he did not know where the ship was going.

COLUMN

Princess Diana's smile earns her a fellowship

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, flashing her famous smile, accepted an honorary fellowship in dental surgery Friday from the Royal College of Surgeons. Clad in the faculty's red-trimmed academic gown and mortar board, the princess quipped, "This is one of the first times that I have not been asked to unveil a plaque." An official for the Royal College of Surgeons, a research and training association, said: "The princess shows a shining example with her beautiful teeth."

Corpse thieves arrested

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Police have arrested 18 people in the last two months on charges of stealing and selling corpses from graves in Mamasa, 1,800 kilometres northeast of Jakarta, a report said Friday. The Kompas Daily newspaper said unidentified buyers paid the 18 suspects to steal human remains, which are believed by residents of the area to possess magic powers. "The thieves chose corpses belonging to people buried tens, even hundreds of years ago," the newspaper quoted a police officer as saying. Older remains brought higher prices, especially if they were still intact, the newspaper said. Prices ranged up to \$3,100 per set.

Passports in exchange for sex

LONDON (R) — Arab women fraudulently obtained Irish passports from an official at the Irish embassy in exchange for sex, the London high court heard Friday. The Home Office alleged that one such passport was obtained by a Moroccan woman, Ghita M'Rabet Machkour, 28, who was refused permission to reenter Britain last month by an immigration officer at London's Heathrow airport. The judge, Justice Schiemann, granted her leave for a judicial review of the immigration officer's refusal. Machkour, currently held in a detention centre, says she obtained the passport by virtue of her marriage in May 1986 to an Irish national living in London. Immigration authorities have been unable to trace the man. George Pulman, lawyer for the Home Office, said Machkour's passport was one of a series believed to have been obtained fraudulently in exchange for sexual favours by Arab women who wished to live in Britain.

Jane Fonda apologises to Vietnam veterans

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Jane Fonda will apologize in a television interview to be shown Friday for any hurt she caused American soldiers by her anti-Vietnam war stance. In particular, she apologized for visiting Hanoi in 1972 and attacking U.S. conduct of the war from the enemy's capital. The woman once labelled "Hanoi Jane" for her opposition to the war says she regretted making many controversial statements, including describing herself as "a revolutionary woman." In an interview on the ABC Television network, Fonda says she made those statements because, "I didn't want to be thought of as some starlet." She adds: "I was trying to help end the killing, end the war. But there were times I was thoughtless and careless about it." The actress has been the object of demonstrations by Veterans groups in the state of Connecticut who oppose her making a film there because of her role in the Vietnam War.

Sailors lived on rainwater, sharks for five months

HONOLULU (R) — Five Costa Rican fishermen, who spent five months drifting in the Pacific, said Friday they lived on sharks and turtles and licked rainwater from tin cans. "We never lost hope," Gerardo Obando said when they arrived in Honolulu Friday on board the Japanese Tuna vessel Kinsei Maru 128. "We prayed and we trusted and we put our faith in God." Obando, 33, captain of the fishing boat Cairo III, and his crew of four left Costa Rica on January 19. They ran into a heavy storm five days later and their boat ran out of fuel and lost its radio. They ran out of food on January 27 as their vessel drifted in the Pacific. Obando said through an interpreter. They were found by the Japanese vessel Wednesday drifting 1120 kilometres southeast of Honolulu.

Savimbi declares support for Angolan peace talks

JAMBA, Angola (R) — Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi declared his support Friday for current four-party talks on ending Angola's civil war but said only meetings between his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerrillas and the Luanda government could bring peace.

Savimbi spoke at his sprawling bush headquarters at Jamba in southeastern Angola, shortly before he was due to fly to Washington for talks with U.S. government officials and members of Congress.

The negotiations between Cuba, South Africa, the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Angolan government and the United States which began in London last month were encouraging, although UNITA was not represented, Savimbi said.

But he added: "Without direct talks between UNITA and the MPLA there can be no peace in our country."

U.N. appeals for 'Sharpeville six'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council issued a new call Friday for South Africa to commute the death sentences on the "Sharpeville six" five men and a woman condemned to hang for complicity in the 1984 mob killing of a black township official.

The resolution was adopted unanimously and without debate at a meeting that lasted only a few

minutes. The council adopted a similar resolution March 16.

Zambia requested the latest meeting after the Pretoria supreme court Monday rejected an application to reopen the case. It extended a stay of execution until July 19.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Foreign Minister of Australia, New Zealand, Deomark, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Norway appealed this week to South African President P.W. Botha to grant clemency.

The council resolution "calls once again upon the South African authorities to stay execution and commute the death sentences imposed on the Sharpeville six."

U.N. debt crisis could force closure

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met Friday with United Nations (U.N.) delegates about the nearly \$700 million member countries owe the United Nations, a debt that officials say could close the organisation.

The secretary-general held talks with Eastern European delegates Friday. He met with Western European representatives Wednesday and held separate discussions Thursday with Asian countries and Latin American and Caribbean states. He is

expected to meet with African nations next week and then announce the results of his consultations.

Perez de Cuellar and U.N. staff officials have said the United Nations could become insolvent by late October unless new funds are found.

The United States is responsible for the majority of the debt, owing \$467 million of the \$691 million outstanding.

In contrast, the Soviet Union has launched a campaign over the past year to increase its influence at the world body.

Guns — a way of life in northwest Pakistan

By Eric Hall
Reuter

DARRA, Pakistan — The customer rams home a fresh magazine and sends bullets from the Kalashnikov-style rifle whining over the heads of two small schoolgirls with prettily painted eyes. They do not even flinch.

Walking the dusty main street of Darra, arms capital of Pakistan's northwest frontier, is not for the nervous type.

Outside hundreds of gunshops lining the street, customers crack off test shots, apparently unconcerned about where the bullets may fall.

For more than a hundred years, the gunsmiths of Darra have been making copies of every conceivable weapon, or smuggling in the genuine article to sell.

A century ago, they sold guns to kill soldiers of Britain's imperial army. Most recently, they have been selling guns to kill Soviet troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Soviet army is leaving, but gunshop proprietors say there is still a healthy "export" trade to the rest of Pakistan. And the locals continue to feed among themselves enthusiastically.

The northwest frontier province, inhabited by fierce mountain tribes, was created by the former British administration in India as a buffer region against the Afghans and imperial Russia.

Pakistan maintains loose control over the region but tribal law still rules, and Darra's gunsmiths carry on their trade unhindered.

The gunshop proprietors, mainly Afghani people, are proud of their role in arming their guerrilla cousins over the border to fight Soviet troops.

"We were the first to supply them with guns before all these foreign weapons started coming in," said Akbar of Gul Akbar and Sons, arms dealers.

"It wasn't the Geneva agreement that got the Soviets out," he said, referring to the pact which is sending Moscow's troops home. "It was this," he cried waving a rifle in the air.

A copy of a seven-millimetre, single-shot rifle costs the normal customer the equivalent of about \$130.

"But we give it to the Mujahedeen for \$80" said

Around town, copies of Soviet Kalashnikov assault rifles cost about \$240, an anti-aircraft machine gun about \$1,500.

Darra's gunsmiths, however, admit the real thing is better. Captured Soviet weaponry or other smuggled arms are at least twice the price of copies.

In the backstreets, tiny workshops turn out each component.

A 75-year-old man who says he has been making guns for 60 years sits chipping a wooden block into a rifle stock.

Next door, another man casts breech mechanisms. His neighbours polish them and get them working.

"Try this one," says another old man with a soft smile and professorial glasses. The cartridge slips in nicely but the bolt is difficult to push home — Not a gun you would trust in an emergency.

A young boy sitting amid piles of metal shavings which irritate the skin turns a gun barrel, carving out the spiral inside which gives a rifle bullet speed and accuracy.

In another street, cartridge makers hammer out new ammunition.

In one shop, a tall Afghani with a Muslim skull cap leaps into the tops of cartridges. These are dum-dum bullets, soft-coated shells banned under international laws of war because they flatten on impact and tear gaping holes in bone and muscle.

"Who are those for?" replies Akbar.

Back at the Akbar's shop it transpires over a few cups of green tea that most of the copy Kalashnikovs are not truly automatic. "We prefer single-shot guns anyway," says an Afghani tribesman sitting in the shop.

Akbar demonstrates a small gun in the form of a fountain pen. Costing \$12 it is popular with tourists but has also ended the lives of several unsuspecting Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan, he says.

The fragile looking instrument makes a huge roar as he fires it into the air. Shaking hands to take leave of Akbar, it is apparent he has few whole fingers left on either hand.

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